PTI, civil society reject LG amendments promulgated through ordinance

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), human rights activists, civil society organisations and residents of the federal capital have rejected the new amendments in Islamabad Capital Territory local government system promulgated through an ordinance.

Activists believe that the amendments, introduced through what they termed a "controversial" ordinance, have deprived citizens of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) of their right to elect members of town corporations. Under the new arrangement, out of 52 members, only four will be women, while not a single member will be directly accountable to the public.

According to a statement issued by the PTI media wing, the presidential ordinance was an attempt to avoid local government elections for the fourth time.

"Moreover, the owners of land have been forced to hand over their land to the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) and the Capital Development Authority (CDA), due to which the government cannot win elections," said PTI Islamabad President Amir Mughal.

He said the government was well aware that it had lost the trust of Islamabad's residents due to bad governance, price hikes, the law and order situation, chopping of trees and the killing of PTI workers at D-Chowk.

Amir Mughal said that in Muslim Colony, Bari Imam, over 40,000 residents were forced to relocate without being provided any alternative accommodation. He alleged that the current MNAs from Islamabad were also backing the land mafia and, therefore, could not afford to face local government elections.

Civil society groups have also rejected the amendments, claiming that out of an average of 52 members per town corporation, only four, about eight per cent, will be women and not a single member will be directly elected or publicly accountable.

"The creation of town corporations, abolition of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), and appointment of unelected administrators with expanded powers and unlimited tenure will make the local government system less democratic, more centralised and dangerously top-down. These changes are a recipe for administrative chaos, likely to deepen tensions between elected and unelected officials — and even among the limited number of so-called 'elected' members," a statement said.

The signatories rejected the amendments, saying the entire process was carried out in an extremely secretive and controversial manner. Instead of improving governance, they warned, the amendments would fuel cronyism, corruption and unaccountable decision-making.

Islamabad's LG polls ordinance challenged

A writ petition has been filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) challenging the Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, with the petitioner alleging that the move was made with mala fide intent to delay long-pending local government elections in the federal capital.

The petition, filed under Article 199 of the Constitution by Muhammad Nasrullah, President of Jamaat-i-Islami Islamabad, names the President of Pakistan, the Federation through the Ministry of Law and Justice, and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) as respondents.

According to the petition, the ECP had announced the schedule for local government elections in the Islamabad Capital Territory on December 9, 2025, which was later revised on December 26, fixing February 15, 2026, as polling day.

However, on January 10, 2026, President Asif Ali Zardari promulgated the Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, which the petitioner contends has made it practically impossible to hold elections under the notified schedule.

The petitioner argues that the ordinance violates Articles 17, 32, 89, and 140-A of the Constitution, asserting that no extraordinary circumstances existed to justify the promulgation of an ordinance, particularly when a session of the National Assembly was due to commence within days.

VEHICLES queue up at the M-Tag registration centre outside Kachnar Park in Islamabad's I-8 sector on Wednesday. The district administration had extended the deadline to get the M-tag till January 15 which expires today. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

PM's pet projects shifted to new venues amid land dispute

JMCRC moved to H-11/2, Daanish University likely along Park Road after protests and ownership issues

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Two pet projects of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose foundation stones were laid by him in Sector H-16 before the start of construction, have been embroiled in controversies that resulted in the shifting of their sites from the sector.

The prime minister laid the foundation stone of the Jinnah Medical Complex and Research Centre (JMCRC) in Sector H-16 in July 2024, while the foundation stone of the Daanish University of Emerging Sciences was laid in the same sector in March 2025.

JMCRC is part of the Uraan Pakistan Programme and is being directly overseen by the prime minister. However, before its takeoff under Uraan, the project faced a major setback as its site was shifted to Sector H-11/2.

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) had allocated land in Sector H-16 for both projects with 600 kanal for JMCRC and 100 kanal for Daanish University.

However, it has now emerged that the land was not encumbrance-free, as the CDA owed payments to local landowners who had been protesting for compensation and houses in accordance with current market rates.

Last month, after hearing unconfirmed news that the prime minister was set to visit Sector H-16 to review progress, hundreds of people staged a protest at the site against the CDA for not clearing their dues. They demanded payment in accordance with market rates. Although the prime minister did not visit the site, the protesters' message reached him.

Later, sources said it was decided to shift both projects to other locations. According to the sources, JMCRC will be constructed in Sector H-11/2, where the CDA has identified around 50 acres of land. Meanwhile, a site along Park Road has almost been finalised for the Daanish University.

"The site of JMCRC has been finalised in Sector H-11/2, while two sites , one near the Daanish School in the Kuri area and another near Park Road, remained under consideration for the Daanish University project. The Park Road site is almost finalised as the majority of officials are in favour of this site," said a CDA source.

It is pertinent to mention that the CDA acquired Sectors H-16 and I-17 in 2008 at Rs 840,000 per kanal. However, payments to a large number of landowners in these sectors are still pending, and they are demanding compensation in accordance with market rates. They also raised objections over the built-up property (BuP) award, which was recently announced on the basis of 2008 Google imagery. Locals argue that their existing houses should have been included in the BuP award announced a couple of months ago.

Sources said the prime minister expressed displeasure over CDA officials for selecting controversial sites for the projects and directed them to shift both schemes to alternative locations.

Subsequently, the CDA identified new sites in Sector H-11 and along Park Road.

It is also relevant to note that soil testing and construction of a boundary wall for JMCRC had already been carried out in Sector H-16, where the CDA had allocated 600 kanal for the project. Meanwhile, the CDA has recently finalised the process of shortlisting firms for the construction of JMCRC.

CDA officials said a total of 11 joint ventures (JVs) of local and international firms applied, out of which four were declared qualified. Currently, the request for proposal (RFP) document is being finalised by the consultant and will be floated in the press to invite bids from the four JVs.

The PC-I worth Rs212 billion has already been approved for the project, which will be executed in two phases. In the first phase, costing around Rs80 billion, a hospital will be constructed. In the second phase, a medical college and other related facilities, including hostels, will be developed.

The project is an initiative of the federal government, with the federal health ministry and the CDA executing it. Later, the Jinnah Medical Company will take over the project.

Sources said the estimated cost of the first phase was around Rs80 billion, as it is being executed under the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the medical complex was performed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on July 21, 2024. Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister said the complex would be one of the region's best medical centres, where deserving people would receive 100 per cent free medical treatment.

"This is a gift by the government not only for the residents of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, but also for people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan," Mr Sharif said.

Once completed, he added, the medical complex would offer world-class healthcare facilities with specialised sections for heart, kidney, lung and cancer diseases, among others.

Meanwhile, the Daanish University project has also been shifted from Sector H-16 and is now likely to be built along Park Road.

Several CDA officers confirmed the shifting of the two projects. However, the CDA spokesperson could not be reached for comments.

Four children among 11 mauled by 'rabid' dogs in Wah

TAXILA: At least 11 people, including four children, were mauled by "rabid"dogs in Sadat Colony and adjacent areas in Wah, according to local officials.

The injured were rushed to the Wah General hospital where they were provided necessary first aid as well as Anti-Rabies Vaccination.

The children were attacked on the face and forehead while the elders on hand and legs.

Talking to *Dawn*, the MS said that all the injured were referred to Rawalpindi for treatment and tests. The other injured were taken to other hospitals in the area.

According to local notables, they tried to kill the dogs, but in vain. "The information we have gathered from a dozen patients indicated involvement of a single street dog that's highly suspected to be rabid," said Asif Shah, a resident of the area. He told *Dawn* that the dog was reportedly foaming.

The cantonment board Wah authorities swung into action and launched a search and strike operation in the area to eliminate stray dogs. According to officials, as many as 16 stray dogs were culled to save the local residents from rabies. — Correspondent

Gilani asks Italian envoy to ensure swift visa process for Pakistanis

By Bakhtawar Mian

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has requested Italy to quicken visa processing for Pakistanis.

He also emphasised an increased quota of skilled workers under the labour migration programme for Pakistanis, for which an MoU between the two countries is in process.

He expressed these views in a meeting with the Ambassador of the Italian Republic Ms Marilina Armellin, at the presidency here on Wednesday. The Italian ambassador shared that in 2025, Italy issued visas to over 15,000 Pakistani students who got admission to Italian universities for postgraduate and PhD programmes.

Referring to Italy's shortage of skilled manpower, particularly in scientific, IT-related fields and healthcare, she said Italian institutions welcomed initiatives by Pakistani universities to offer Italian language courses to improve employment prospects.

The Italian ambassador added that Italy deeply cherishes its long-standing friendship with Pakistan and noted that Pakistan was among the first countries with which the Italian Republic established diplomatic relations. The meeting focused on further strengthening Pakistan-Italy relations and expanding cooperation in key areas.

The acting president said that Pakistan and Italy enjoyed over 75 years of diplomatic relations rooted in a long-standing friendship and cooperation at important international fora. He expressed appreciation for Italy's support in multilateral platforms and thanked the Italian government for hosting more than 300,000 members of the Pakistani diaspora.

Mr Gilani noted the presence of several Italian companies in Pakistan, particularly in pharmaceuticals, oil and gas and railways, and underscored Pakistan's interest in expanding trade and investment ties. The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment to further deepen bilateral cooperation in education, migration, trade and people-to-people exchanges.

Education diplomacy

Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Wednesday described education diplomacy as one of the most enduring instruments of international engagement, stressing sustained academic partnerships beneficial for the country to address deep-rooted challenges in its education sector and prepare its youth for a rapidly changing world.

Addressing a reception hosted in honour of a visiting delegation of the University of London and its alumni, the acting president Gillani said the presence of the delegation symbolised a bridge of knowledge, aspiration and partnership between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

He paid tribute to the University of London's global standing and its nearly two centuries of contribution to human progress across disciplines. He noted that many distinguished Pakistanis were alumni of the University of London and had gone on to excel in public service, law, medicine, academia, business and diplomacy.

In response, he recalled, the government had declared a national education emergency in 2024 to ensure equitable access to schooling and improve learning outcomes through coordinated federal and provincial efforts.

He referred to the National Education Policy Development Framework 2024 as a comprehensive road-map for reform, and cited initiatives such as the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif programme, which provided conditional support to encourage school participation.

He also pointed to the impact of climate-related disasters, including the 2022 floods, which had damaged educational infrastructure and underscored the need for resilient and adaptive education systems.

He noted that Pakistan's approval of the AI Policy 2025 and the Digital Sector Roadmap 2025-2035 reflected its commitment to preparing youth for the digital economy, with IT exports reaching $3.8 billion and growing at around 20 per cent annually.

He stressed that technology alone was insufficient, and called for deeper partnerships with institutions such as the University of London to build capacity, enhance pedagogy, and inspire excellence.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI
(Companies Jurisdiction)
J.C.M. PETITION NO. 28 OF 2024

ZIYYAD GULZAR son of Gulzar Zaidi, Resident of House No. 121, Muslim Colony, Soldier Bazaar, Karachi.....**PETITIONER**

VERSUS

1.UNILEVER PAKISTAN FOODS LIMITED,
Through Its Company Secretary Having Its Office At, CDC House, 99-B, Block B, S.M.C.H.S., Main Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi.

2.CDC SHARE REGISTRAR SERVICES LIMITED Through its Chief Executive Officer Having its office at, CDC House, 99-B, Block B, S.M.C.H.S., Main Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi.....**RESPONDENTS**

3.MUNAWWAR ALAM Son of Tahir Alam, Resident of House No 121, Muslim Colony, Soldier Bazaar, Karachi.....**PRO-FORMA RESPONDENT**

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ALL CONCERNED

Notice is hereby given that the above named Petitioners have filed a Petition Under Section 126 of the Companies Act, 2017 read with all other enabling provisions of law, praying that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to;

A. Declare that the Petitioner is the lawful titleholder / owner of the six hundred (600) shares of Respondent No.1 having Folio Number 78 bearing distinctive numbers :0006059903 :0006060002; 0006060003-0006060102; 0006060103-0006060202; 0006060103-0006060202; 0006060203-0006060302; 0006060303-0006060402; 0006060403-0006060502

B. Direct the Respondents No. 1 and 2 to rectify the register of members and make adequate entries to enter the name of the Petitioner as a member in respect of six hundred (600) shares of Respondent No, 1 having Folio Number 78 bearing distinctive numbers: 0006059903-0006060002; 0006060003-0006060102; 0006060103-0006060202; 0006060103-0006060202; 0006060203-0006060302; 0006060303-0006060402; 0006060403-0006060502;

C. Direct the Respondents No. 1 and 2 to disburse the accumulated withheld/ unpaid dividends and/or bonus shares in favour of the Petitioner, after acknowledgment and subsequent rectification of his title in the member's register in Respondent No. 1.

D. Grant any other relief or relief(s) which this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper under the circumstances of the case;

The petition was presented on 25.11.2024 by the above named Petitioners through their counsel namely M/s Mohsin Tayebaly & Co., Advocates. The said petition is Fixed in this Court on 03.02.2026 at 08:15 A.M.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the making of an order as prayed in the Petition should appear at the time of hearing by himself or by his advocate. A Copy of petition will be furnished to any person requiring the same on application and payment of usual fees for copies of such document.

Given under my hand & seal of Court this 9th day of December, 2025.

BY ORDER
REGISTRAR COMPANIES BENCH

REFORM SUPPORT UNIT
SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
Karachi, dated the 14th January, 2026

CANCELLATION OF TENDER

The tendering process for NIT No: RSU-SE&LD/ASPIRE/STREAM/2025-26, published under reference INF-KRY 3803/25 dated 16-11-2025 in daily newspapers, concerning the **"Establishment of Stream Laboratories in 60 schools, with each package comprising 15 laboratories to be established in each district of Sindh province"** at ASPIRE Project in 04 districts as per Tender No: RSU-SE&LD/ASPIRE/STREAM/2025-26 for the current financial year 2025-26, is hereby **cancelled** in accordance with Rule 25 of the Sindh Public Procurement Rules, 2010 (as amended to date).

CHIEF PROGRAM MANAGER
REFORM SUPPORT UNIT

INF-KRY 130-26
iWORK FOR SINDH
www.iwork4sindh.com
JOB PORTAL BY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI
I.A. No. 59 of 2025

M/s. Zarai Taraqiati Bank Ltd,.....**APPELLANT**

VERSUS

George Gill.....**RESPONDENT**

NOTICE TO: -

GEORGE GILL
S/o Samual Masih
Resident of House No. HC-193, Punjab Para, Hassan Colony, Gulbahar, Liaquatabad, Karachi.....**RESPONDENT**

WHEREAS the above named appellant has preferred an Appeal Under Section 22 of Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001 against the Order dated 19.11.2024 passed by the learned Banking Court No. III at Karachi in Suit No. 101 of 2021.

Whereas, the above mater fixed on 17.12.2025 for hearing of main case, when the Hon'ble Court has been pleased to pass the following Order which relevant part as under:-

"Since the Respondents are unserved, they will be served by all modes, including Electronic mode and Publication for the next date."

AND

Take Notice of Appeal that you are hereby required to appear in this Hon'ble Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on **21.01.2026 (21st January, 2026) AT 08:15 A.M.** to show cause as to why the said Appeal should not be admitted failing wherein the said Appeal will be heard, admitted and decided in your absence.

Also take notice that in default of your filing an address for service on or before the date mentioned hereinabove, you are liable to have your defence struck off.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 09th day of January, 2026.

BY ORDER
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
(CIVIL APPELLATE BRANCH)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI
I.A. No. 60 of 2025

M/s. Zaral Taraqiatl Bank Ltd.....**APPELLANT**

VERSUS

Mst. Rubby.....**RESPONDENT**

NOTICE TO: -

MST. RUBBY D/o Inayat Masih Resident of House No. G-24 block No.13 Jalalabad, Nazimabad No. 1, Karachi.....**RESPONDENTS**

WHEREAS the abovenamed appellant has preferred an Appeal Under Section 22 of Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001 against the Order dated 31.10.2024 passed by the learned Banking Court No. III at Karachi in Suit No. 69 of 2021.

Whereas, the above mater fixed on 17.12.2025 for hearing of main case, when the Hon'ble Court has been pleased to pass the following Order which relevant part as under:

"Since the Respondents are unserved, they will be served by all modes, including Electronic mode and Publication for the next date."

AND

Take Notice of Appeal that you are hereby required to appear in this Hon'ble Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on **21.01.2026 (21st January, 2026) AT 08:15 A.M.**, to show cause as to why the said Appeal should not be admitted failing wherein the said Appeal will be heard, admitted and decided in your absence.

Also take notice that in default of your filing an address for service on or before the date mentioned hereinabove, you are liable to have your defence struck off.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 09th day of January, 2026.

BY ORDER
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
CIVIL APPLELLATE KARACHI